



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Christine Conley, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joseph Baril, Alicia Bauer, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, John A. Espada, Robert M. Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Meyer, Douglas Monaghan, Karen Morton, Kathy Neugent, Scott Newsome, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Shawn Powers, John F. Scott IV, Richard Semeraro, Bill Smith, Judith Strode, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Fred Turnbull, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Ivy R. Williams and Jonathan E. Wilson

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
30 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Heede, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Morton, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Powers, Rep. Scott, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strode, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson
Members Absent: Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Espada, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Luck, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Newsome and Rep. Parker

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Mayor Rita Schmidt, Town Councilor Bruce Flax, Manager of Recreation Services Jerry Lokken, Kevin Trahan, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Dawn Rahilly.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Scott, seconded by Rep. Ambroise. The vote on approval of the minutes carried 28 in favor, 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Bauer and Wilson.)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Rep. Parker and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Graner notified the Town Clerk they are not able to attend the meeting.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of September 30, 2014 (unaudited) is approximately \$11.3 million; the General Contingency amount for FYE 2015 was budgeted at \$350,000. No transfers have been made from General Contingency. Mr. Oefinger noted a mistake was made with regard to the Capital Reserve balance. As of September 30, 2014 it is close to the \$2.477 million balance from last month. The cause of the error is the RTM has not yet approved the Spicer Park Dock appropriation, and the Finance Committee meeting for the Water Pollution Control Authority appropriation has been delayed.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager's News. Mr. Oefinger reported Finance Director Sal Pandolfo's last day in the office was September 26, 2014. Cindy Landry, long time Treasurer/Accounting Manager, has been appointed as Acting Finance Director until a new Director is appointed, which may be a month or two.

Mr. Oefinger welcomed the new Director of Planning and Development, Jon Reiner. Jon has been on the job for a week and a half.

Mr. Oefinger gave a brief overview of various items in his newsletter. Among items mentioned were Groton's ninth annual Fall Festival to be held Saturday October 11th, as well Groton regional Theatre's production of 'Cat On A Hot Tin Roof' to be held at the Groton Senior Center on Oct. 10th thru 12th, and Oct 17th thru 19th.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

H. LIAISON REPORTS**Town & City Council/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee**

Rep. Massett reported the committee met Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Most of the meeting discussion centered on Groton Parks and Recreation's proposal for the new athletic fields and the positive impact they will have on various high school sports.

Dr. Graner reported that the Administrator's contract negotiations have concluded, although the contract has not been ratified.

Dr. Graner also discussed the rationale for building a new Middle School and renovating West Side Middle and Cutler Middle School as new elementary schools.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk mentioned Election Day is November 4th. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office. You can also download an application from the Secretary of State's web site. She warned you are not able to get an absentee ballot for someone else. Also mentioned, a new law has gone into effect for Election Day registration. The designated location for same day registration will be at the Senior High School, which is also the new 7th District voting location.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS**1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky**

This meeting was cancelled.

2014-0240 Reallocation of CIP Funds for Boiler Replacement at Water Pollution Control Facility

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REALLOCATION OF \$382,972 FROM ACCOUNT NUMBER 50100 5572B (WPCF RENOVATIONS) TO A NEW FYE15 CIP PROJECT, WPCF BOILER REPLACEMENT

WHEREAS, there are funds in the amount of \$382,972 remaining from a Water Pollution Control Facility FYE 2010 Capital Improvement Program project [9)E) Facility Renovations totalling \$1.9 million], and

WHEREAS, the previously authorized project has been completed under budget and the remaining funds are sufficient to undertake the replacement of the existing boiler, and

WHEREAS, reallocation of the funds will allow the bid specifications, bidding, award and procurement of the materials to allow construction to begin at the end of the heating season in March of 2015 along with other benefits, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, to reallocate \$382,972 from account number 50100 5572B (WPCF Renovations) to a new FYE15 CIP project for the Water Pollution Control Facility Boiler Replacement.

Refer to RTM.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Semeraro

No meeting; no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

No meeting; no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Svencer

Chairman Svencer read the minutes of the meeting held on October 10, 2014. (Minutes are attached to the permanent record.)

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Moderator Conley, seconded by Rep. Ambroise.

The vote on approval of the minutes carried 29 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Turnbull)

2014-0251 Spicer Park Dock Replacement

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A NEW DOCK SYSTEM AT SPICER PARK

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department has proposed the purchase of a replacement dock for Spicer Park using funds from the Community Boating Account and Special Needs Donations, and financing a portion of the purchase using the Capital Reserve Fund, which is anticipated to be repaid over a two-year period, and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2014 the Town Council authorized the donation of the old Spicer Park dock to the Noank Rowing Club, with the understanding that proceeds from the dock will be donated to the Town and applied to the purchase of a new dock, and

WHEREAS, the new proposed replacement system is an 80' x 12' modular dock with an additional adaptive feature that allows for greater accessibility for users, and

WHEREAS, the total cost for the dock and installation is \$61,000 and there are \$54,000 in funds currently available leaving a balance of \$7,000 to be financed using the Capital Reserve Fund, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes a new FYE15 CIP project for the Spicer Park Dock Replacement.

Refer to RTM.

This matter was Adopted.

Rep. Turnbull questioned public access to the dock and if the gate to the dock locked. Jerry Lokken, manager of Recreation Services, responded the gate is secured with a combination lock for safety concerns, not to discourage the public from using it. The staff is available during the day to open the gate for the public.

A motion was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Ambroise to approve Resolution 2014-0251 Spicer Park Dock Replacement, and so voted unanimously.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting; no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Heede

No meeting; no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Ambroise

No meeting; no report.

J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Rep. McDermott had suggestions for the Public Safety portion of the upcoming budget. He noted some of the information that was presented on page 89 in the last budget book be amended so that the data is more accurate and useful. Calls for service were not accurate and misleading. He would like to see that amended. He suggested the table of the most frequent calls for service, on page 34 of the Police Study, is much more informative and a better gauge of what is happening in our policing areas than how it has been presented in the past. He would like to see that particular grid presented in the new budget. Rep. McDermott also suggested the small table on page 13 of the Police Study be added. The Community Crime Incidence Report, which compares categories of crimes, he feels will be more useful. His last recommendation is in the area of arrest data. The format currently in use is difficult to understand. The way it is presented in the grid on page 13, it easier to understand and much more informative. He recommends adopting the tables outlined above, on page 90 of the budget book. Rep. McDermott feels it will make the process of going through the budget a bit more understandable.

Rep. Turnbull has not seen the Police Study and questioned if it is available to the Public Safety Committee. The Town Manager responded copies of the report were disbursed when it was presented last November. If anyone would like a copy, contact him. It is also available on the Town web site.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

2014-0273 2015 RTM Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2015 RTM MEETING SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, Freedom of Information Statutes require filing a calendar-year schedule of meetings with the Town Clerk, and

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has met regularly on the second Wednesday of each month, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby approves the meeting schedule for 2015 as follows:

Wednesday, January 14, 2015
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Wednesday, April 8, 2015
Wednesday, May 13, 2015
Wednesday, June 10, 2015
Wednesday, July 8, 2015
Wednesday, August 12, 2015
Wednesday, September 9, 2015
Wednesday, October 14, 2015
Wednesday, November 11, 2015
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Wednesday, January 13, 2016

All meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, 102 Newtown Road, Groton Connecticut 06340.

This matter was Adopted.

A motion was made by Moderator Conley, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini that this matter be

adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

The RTM would like to send condolences to the Sebastian family for longtime RTM member Jack Sebastian.

Rep. Scott mentioned there is a Constitutional Amendment question on the ballot this year. He explained a yes vote would allow the Constitution to be amended so rules can be changed on absentee balloting and also allow the State legislature to consider extended voting periods. The League of Women Voters is promoting this. He suggests viewing the League of Women Voters or the Secretary of State's web site for more information.

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Rep. Monaghan. The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.